

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DIWY-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4233

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MORE PRO-THIRD WORLD (AND ANTI-US) NOISES IN MANILA
PRESS

REF: A. MANILA 4157

B. MANILA 4008

BEGIN SUMMARY: COMMENTARY IN MANILA PRESS CONTINUES TO
BOOST "THIRD WORLD" LINE OF FIRST LADY LINKED WITH ANTI-
AMERICANISM. LATEST EXAMPLES INCLUDE CARMEN GUERRERO
NAKPIL'S PAEAN OF PRAISE FOR ARABS AND TEODORO VALENCIA'S
SUGGESTION THAT IN LIGHT OF INDOCHINA AND GOP'S NEW
THIRD WORLD DIPLOMACY AMERICANS SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE
CLARK AND SUBIC. (THIS ANALYSIS CONTRADICTED IN SAME
ISSUE OF BULLETIN BY VALENCIA'S FELLOW COLUMNIST APOLONIO
BATTALLA.) AS SUGGESTED REFTEL VIETNAM EVENTS ARE LIKELY
TO STIMULATE FURTHER FASCINATION WITH THIRD WORLD. IT IS
TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER VALENCIA'S ARGUMENT FOR REMOVAL
OF BASES WILL BE REPEATED OR PICKED UP BY OTHERS, WHETHER
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(AS WE SUSPECT) VIEWS OF BATTALLA REMAIN CLOSER TO THOSE OF

PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT (IF NOT OF FIRST LADY)
OR INDEED WHETHER RECENT PRESS TRENDS ARE ANYTHING MORE
THAN RESULT OF CALCULATED RELAXATION OF GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. USIS WILL BE ANALYZING RECENT RENEWED ANTI-US STRAINS
IN PHILIPPINE PRESS AND POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH GOP AND/OR
FIRST LADY FOREIGN POLICY BUT IN MEANTIME WE WISH TO FLAG
SEVERAL ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

2. IN CHOLERIC COLUMN OF APR 4 BULLETIN TODAY PUNDIT
TEODORO VALENCIA SAYS THAT IN LIGHT OF INDOCHINA DEVELOP-
MENTS GOP SHOULD "TAKE STEPS TO REQUEST THE UNITED STATES
TO REMOVE HER MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES OUT OF THE PHILIP-
PINES." VALENCIA CONTINUES, "RIGHT NOW, THEY MAKE A
MOCKERY OF OUR POSITION OF NEUTRALITY AND OUR OFFERS OF
FRIENDSHIP WITH COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE
AMERICAN ORBIT." COLUMN CONTINUES WITH MUCH MORE IN SAME
VIEN INCLUDING CHARGE THAT US PRESS "HAS ZEROED IN ON MRS.
MARCOS BECAUSE IT IS SHE WHO IS TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO
FORGE A DECISIVE SHIFT IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. FROM COM-
PLETE DEPENDENCE ON THE US TO ONE OF SELF-RELIANCE AND
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD."

3. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH ADJOINING SPACE ON APR 4 BULLETIN
EDITORIAL PAGE IS OCCUPIED BY APOLONIO BATALLA COLUMN WHICH,
IN CONTRADICTION TO VALENCIA'S, ARGUES THAT VIETNAM EVENTS ARE
"EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT AMERICA STANDS BY HER
SECURITY COMMITMENTS.....FROM WAY BACK, THEY HAD DOUBTS
ABOUT VIETNAM." BATALLA SAYS THAT US WOULD NOT HAVE SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT FIGHTING IF EUROPEAN ALLIES INVOLVED IN WAR
IN EUROPE AND WOULD FEEL "QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE" IF PHILIP-
PINES THREATENED. HE CONCLUDES "RARE IS THE INSTANCE WHEN
THE US ABANDONS A FRIEND IN NEED."

4. PNA (GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY) DIRECTED FRONT PAGE TREAT-
MENT ON APR 2-3 FOR PRO-ARAB PAEAN OF PRAISE WRITTEN BY
LEFT-WING LITERARY FIGURE CARMEN GUERRERO NAKPIL. IN
PIECE WHICH COULD WELL HAVE BEEN TITLED "RADICAL CHIC OF
ARABY," NAKPIL ARGUES THAT RENAISSANCE OF ANCIENT ARAB
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CIVILIZATION IS BASED ON TALENT AS WELL AS PETRODOLLARS.
SHE SAYS THAT GOP IS "ONE OF THE FIRST IN THIS PART OF THE
WORLD" TO RECTIFY OLD COLONIAL IGNORANCE AND "SEEK SOLUTIONS
TO ITS PROBLEMS IN THE WIDE REACHES OF ARAB SYMPATHY,"
RECOGNIZING NEW ROLE OF ME COUNTRIES AS "LEADERS AND
CHAMPIONS OF AFRO-ASIA AND THE THIRD WORLD." NAKPIL CLAIMS
THAT "DESPITE SOME MEDDLING BY A FEW MUSLIM FOREIGN POLITI-
CIANS WHO SEE MINDANAO AS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ISLAMIC

REVANCHISM" GOP IS GRADUALLY BRIDGING INFORMATION GAP WITH ARABS AND OTHER THIRD WORLDERS REGARDING ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE MUSLIM AREAS IN SOUTH. SHE SAYS RESURGENT ISLAMIC COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN "PERSUADED BY THE INITIATIVES OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND ITS FIRST LADY THAT THE PHILIPPINES TOO IS PART OF THIS FAR-FLUNG EMPIRE OF THE SPIRIT."

4. COMMENT: LONG KNOWN FOR STRONG ANTI-US VIEWS, MS. NAKPIL IS DISTINGUISHED ESSAYIST AND SOCIALLY PROMINENT LEADING MEMBER OF PHIL-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. SHE WAS PART OF MRS. MARCOS ENTOURAGE ON RECENT ME TRIP, AND UNUSUAL PNA DIRECTIVE TO FRONT-PAGE HER ARTICLE COULD WELL BE RESULT OF INTERVENTION BY FIRST LADY. AS SUGGESTED REF B, EVENTS IN INDOCHINA LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER ADULATION OF THIRD WORLD LINKED WITH ANTI-AMERICANISM. VALENCIA'S ARGUMENT FOR REMOVAL OF BASES HAS FLAVOR OF PRE-MARTIAL LAW DAYS, BUT IT STILL FAR FROM CERTAIN HOW FAR HE WILL CARRY HIS ATTACK, WHETHER IT WILL BE PICKED UP BY OTHERS, OR WHETHER (AS WE SUSPECT) DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE LINE OF BATALLA IS CLOSER TO VIEWS OF PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, IF NOT OF FIRST LADY. PERHAPS WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS RESULT OF A PARTIAL (AND NO DOUBT CALCULATED) RELAXATION OF PRESS CONTROL, A TOPIC WHICH FORTHCOMING USIS MESSAGE WILL ADDRESS AT GREATER LENGTH.
SULLIVAN

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